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STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Technology Transfer Program
Fact Sheet

The wealth of technology resulting from the exploration of space is a valuable national resource and an investment in the future. Through NASA's Technology Transfer Program, the John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi seeks to contribute to the U.S. economy by transferring technology in the form of process, products or programs in order to fulfill technical and business needs of the public. The result is an enhanced potential for industrial productivity, the creation of jobs and an increased return on investment for the taxpayer.

Through NASA's Technology Transfer Program, Stennis Space Center seeks to encourage use of the technology bank by providing a link between the technology and those who might be able to put it to advantageous secondary use. The program's goal is to broaden and accelerate the spinoff process and to promote increased benefits from the nation's investment in aerospace research.

NASA's space and aeronautics programs are the source for "spinoff", or technology reapplications, because the innovations they generate are exceptionally diverse. The technology bank has been well-used by American industry. Tens of thousands of secondary applications have emerged to benefit the U.S. economy, create jobs, increase industrial productivity and improve the nation's lifestyle.

By Congressional mandate, NASA is responsible for promoting "spinoff" technology for the public interest. The agency has been challenged to adopt new ways of doing business with the public sector in order to maximize efficiency and, in turn, deliver more benefits to the American people. Stennis Space Center has a framework of services available in order to successfully meet this challenge.

Services of Stennis Space Center's Technology Transfer Program

- SSC can arrange technical consultation with experts in virtually every scientific and engineering field. Use of certain laboratory facilities can be arranged on a reimbursable, non-interface basis.

- SSC technology transfer personnel maintain close ties with economic development activities in both Mississippi and Louisiana. These efforts are enhanced by close interaction with the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology and the Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, both

located at Stennis Space Center. These offices provide statewide focus and combine resources with those of NASA to effectively accomplish joint technology transfer projects.

- Also located at Stennis Space Center is the Mississippi/Louisiana office of the Southeast Regional Technology Transfer Center, operated by the Science and Technology Applications Center at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

- NASA Tech Briefs magazine is available through the Technology Transfer Office. The magazine reports new product ideas, new technology items from NASA laboratories and contractors, new software packages and documentation releases. NASA Tech Briefs includes a directory of the national NASA technology utilization network and services.

- SSC's Technology Transfer Office has access to the Computer Software and Management and Information Center (COSMIC). COSMIC assists users in locating NASA-software available for purchase or licensing. There are an increasing number of desktop computer programs being input into the NASA software center. Stennis Space Center has the 1994 updated catalog of NASA-available software.

- Regional technology transfer centers provide computerized access to over 100 million documents worldwide, including one of the largest single databases, NASA "RECON." These centers offer consultant services to clients, including access to current awareness surveys in specific technologies. User fees are charged for these services.

- As a member of the Federal Laboratory Consortium, Stennis Space Center has access to technology in 325 federal laboratories nationwide.

At Stennis Space Center, technology transfer is done primarily in two ways. The first is technology awareness, which trains potential users about the kinds of NASA technologies available and how to access technical information about them. The other is application engineering projects, in which NASA and a commercial partner enter into a project agreement to work jointly to develop a commercial spinoff application from NASA technology.

Through the Technology Transfer Office, Stennis Space Center personnel worked with the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, Baltimore, Md., in developing the Low Vision Enhancement System which could help millions afflicted with low vision problems. The head-mounted gear consists of two origination cameras, a zoom camera and a video projection system that provides a wide field of view. Other ongoing projects include working with oil drilling, automobile production industries and the medical community.

For more information about technology transfer services, contact Anne Johnson, Stennis Space Center Technology Transfer Office, (601) 688-1929.

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